

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached 17 sheets of drawings include FIGS. 1-21 and replace the originally submitted 17 sheets of drawings that also included FIGS. 1-21.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 6-33, and 37-41 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1, 6, 7 and 40 have been amended, and claims 8 and 37-39 have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-33, and 40 will be subject to examination. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

The Allowable and Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 25 and 28-30 are allowed, and that claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and of the intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 40 has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 37-40.

The Objection to the Specification and the Rejection under 37 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1 has been amended to recite that the diaphragm has a "single level." Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to recite a "centrally disposed circular stiffening member," as described, for example, at paragraph [0059] of the specification (paragraph [0060] of the patent application publication), and in FIG. 6 with reference numeral 605.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the objection to the specification and the rejection under 37 USC 112, 2nd paragraph is believed to have been traversed.

The Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 37-39 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot. As indicated above, claim 40 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of claims 37-39.

The Objections to the Drawings

Replacement drawing sheets 1-17 are enclosed herein, which include the same number of figures, and in the same order, as the originally filed drawings.

Informal FIG. 1 has been replaced by formal FIG. 1. In FIGS. 2, 3, 6, 10, 15 and 18, cross-section indicators A, B, C, E and F have been removed. In FIGS. 7, 8, 15, 19, 20, and 21,

captions in the Italian language have been removed, because the related indications are already provided in the specification.

Conclusion

It is believed that all objections and rejections have been addressed, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Dated: September 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

/Franco A. Serafini/

Franco A. Serafini, Registration No. 52,207

Attorney for Applicant

Telephone: (858) 456-2898

THEMIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COUNSEL

7660 Fay Ave. Ste H535

La Jolla, CA 92037